

IV) REMARKS

The specification has been amended in order to satisfy several objections previously made to terminology used in the specification during examination of an earlier parent application. The applicant has carefully inspected the specification to ensure consistency with respect to the terms cited by the prior Examiner and has made corrections as appropriate. Revised paragraphs of the specification have been provided accordingly.

The specification has also been amended to include material from parent application serial number 09/232,908, which was obtained from provisional application serial number 60/000,442, filed on June 20, 1995, and entitled "Method of an Apparatus for Interfacing with Remote Computers". The provisional application was originally incorporated by reference in the first paragraph of the present specification. In accordance with M.P.E.P. section 608.01(p), applicants are amending the specification to include disclosure from the provisional application. Copendency is established with the provisional application since this application is a continuation of serial number 09/633,932, which is a continuation of application serial number 09/232,908 (now US Patent No. 6,199,048), which is a divisional application of 08/538,365 (now US Patent No. 5,978,773), which claims priority of the provisional application. The disclosure added herein was also added to said parent applications in the same manner.

Applicant has also submitted herewith two new sheets of drawings containing FIGS. 8-10, which correspond to

FIGS. 1-3 of the provisional application. To avoid duplicate reference numerals, references 10 through 144 of in FIGS. 1-3 of the provisional application have been changed to 113 through 144, respectively.

The textual material inserted into the present application by virtue of these amendments may be found on pages 4-8 of the provisional application. Minor editorial changes were made for purposes of readability and conforming references to the drawings to the revised figure and reference numerals.

The amendments add no new matter to the specification. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney Anthony R. Barkume directly at (631) 878-0526 should he or she have any questions.

New claim 33 is directed towards an aspect of the invention that obtains URL routing information from more than one computer (i.e. where the database table is divided over more than one computer such as on a peer-to-peer network.) Claim 33 therefore recites a method of connecting a plurality of computers over a computer network for data transfer amongst the computers, comprising the steps of using a computer input device associated with a requesting computer of the plurality of computers to automatically machine-read a data carrier modulated with an index; the requesting computer communicating with routing computers in the plurality of computers, said routing computers each having a table stored in memory, each table comprising a plurality of records, each of said records comprising at least part of an association of an index to a

pointer which identifies an information computer on the network, by transmitting said machine-read index to at least one of said routing computers and receiving pointer information from said routing computers that correlates the machine-read index to a pointer which identifies an information computer on the network; the requesting computer using the pointer information received from said routing computers to establish communication with the information computer identified thereby and request information from said information computer; and the information computer transmitting information to the requesting computer based on the information request.

In new claim 34 the routing computers comprise a first routing computer having a first table stored in a first memory, and a second routing computer having a second table stored in a second memory. The first table comprises a set of first records, each of said first records associating an index with a label, and the second table comprises a set of second records, each of said second records associating a label with a pointer. An index is correlated with a label which is then correlated with a pointer by accessing both of said first table and said second table.

In new claim 35, the data carrier is a bar code symbol, the index is a Uniform Product Code (UPC) encoded in the bar code symbol, the label is a product name corresponding to said UPC, and the pointer is a URL indicating the location of a resource on the network having information related to the product. The UPC is used to determine the associated product name in the first table and the product name obtained from the first table is used

to determine the associated URL in the second table. New claim 36 is similar to claim 35, except that the label indicates the product manufacturer rather than the name.

Support for these claims is found at page 13, lines 16-29. Thus, no new matter has been added.

New claims 37-54 depend from claim 33. Support for these claims may be found throughout the specification. New claim 55 is a system type claim with limitations similar in scope to claim 33. Claims 56-76 depend from claim 55.

It is respectfully requested that the pending claims be allowed and pass to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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